

Leon River TMDL Meeting

Temple Public Library

Temple, Texas

8/19/2003

Stakeholders Present: Norman Mullin (Enviro-Ag Engineering), James Abbott (USDA liason), Clarence Richardson (Agriculture Research Service), Anthony Daniel (City of Temple), Judge Jon Burrows (Bell County Judge), Bill Dugas (TAES), Leroy Schiller (Bell County Commissioner), Randy Holly (City of Temple), Hall DeBusk (Hamilton-Coryell Soil and Water Conservation District), Kyle Headley (BRA), Kevin Wagner (Texas Station Soil and Water Conservation Board), Robert Fleming (Texas Farm Bureau)

Stakeholders Absent: Buddy Teague (Hamilton-Coryell Soil and Water Conservation District), John Cowan (Texas Association of Dariymen), Neil Walter (Coryell County Farm Bureau), Richard Cortese (County Commissioner, Precinct 1)

Meeting crew: James Miertschin (JMA), Wendy Block (H&C), Kerry Niemann (TCEQ)

Others Present: Una Abbot (Citizen), Larry Hauck (TIAER), John Koster (dairy farmer), Danny Glossup (DFA), Steven Bednarz (NRCS), Trish Shaw (BRA), Clay Coppedge (Telegram), Rodney Adams (TCEQ)

Meeting began at 12:05 PM

James Miertschin did introductions, described purpose of meeting

Went through series of Powerpoint slides describing the TMDL process, stakeholder needs, and prior data assessment

Main points of presentation:

- Impairment determination can change with each assessment
- 2000 and 2002 TCEQ assessments showed impairment
- JMA assessment – confirmed TCEQ assessment of impairment
- Fairly high impairment at two stations (US 281 North of Hamilton and FM 1702 east of Gustine)
- Pronounced fluctuation over a period of 20 years
- No correlation between levels of bacteria and flow
- Farm Bureau is doing some bacteria source monitoring mostly at Lake Belton
- Monitoring scheduled for Leon River beginning Sept 1
- Plan to collect data for later mathematical modeling
 - Storm Events (2)
 - Baseflow Survey (1)

Questions:

Q: How is BST sampling done? What is it used for?

A: It depends when the impairment is found. BST is expected to tell what the most important sources of the bacterial pollution are, which will be most helpful when

inputting this information into the subsequent modeling analysis. Without BST information, you have to assume what the relative contributions are from each of the potential sources. With BST, you can get specific percentages for each potential source.

Q: What is the sampling schedule for 2004?

A: We have tentatively scheduled two storm sampling surveys and one baseflow survey. We want to identify major dischargers and major tributaries. We expect to have approximately 6 mainstem sampling stations and three or four tributaries that are of principal interest.

Q: Do you identify different strains of *e.coli*?

A: No

Q: What are the fecal coliform levels in other watersheds that you're studying?

A: Generally, they are higher in the other watersheds. For example, they are much higher in urban San Antonio stream segments (San Antonio River and Salado Creek)

Q: How many dischargers are there along the Leon River?

A: Approximately 6-10 municipal dischargers, based on recollection of prior compilation of dischargers.

Q: Are there set criteria for storm events?

A: There are no set criteria. We want to sample events that are large enough to produce runoff. In general, we want about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of rain to trigger a storm event. However, it may be raining in one part of the segment, but not in another.

Q: With no correlation between the bacteria and the flow, is the idea just to monitor the stream and understand the pollution?

A: Yes, and we're trying to move more into a more analytical phase of work, namely, the modeling work.

Q: What kind of model will you use?

A: At the present time, we expect to use HSPF or SWAT. The modeling portion is about two years away, so the model could change between now and then.

Q: Is there any correlation between levels of *e.coli* and fecal coliform?

A: Generally, both look high at the same time. A lot of historical data sets do not look at both indicator bacteria. Our work will be restricted to the *E. coli* bacteria.

Q: How long are the stakeholder meetings? Where will they be held?

A: There will be approximately one per year, held here in Temple

Q: Will there be communication with the stakeholder group in the meantime?

A: If the group wants a mid-year letter, then we can do that. Also, there are project overviews that are available on the TCEQ website for your reference.